



Diversity in Europe

■ *In varietate Concordia (EC, Brussels, 2000)*



SUPER DIVERSITÉ

issue 14 - Diversity in AI

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*« These strangers in a foreign World
Protection asked of me-
Befriend them, lest yourself in Heaven
Be found a refugee »*

*« Ces Etrangères, en Monde inconnu
Asile m'ont demandé
Accueille-les, car Toi-même au Ciel
Pourrait être une Réfugiée »*

Emily Dickinson (Quatrains II-2, 1864-65, Amherst, Massachusetts, Etats-Unis)
translation in French by Claire Malroux (NRF, Poésie/Gallimard, Paris, 2000)

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Diversity in Artificial Intelligence

Since November 2018, the Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (Iriv) has published a newsletter entitled «Diversity in Europe». It is expressed in the motto chosen since 2000 by the European Union *In varietate Concordia* with the enlargement of the European Union from 15 to 25 members in 2004.

The first issue (November 2018) was dedicated to school with Rotterdam (Netherlands) whose inhabitants with foreign origins represent more than 70% of the total population. Paris also has students with very diverse profiles in its classrooms.

The second issue (March 2019) addressed religious and cultural diversity, and the Jewish community with a comparison between Paris and Thessaloniki, cities sharing a tragic history during the Second World War.

The third issue (November 2019) raised the issue of interreligious dialogue with articles on Switzerland and France. In secular countries, religious freedom is the right not to believe or to belong to any religion.

The fourth issue (March 2020) was dedicated to interfaith education and dialogue in multicultural countries. A first article analysed inclusion and diversity in the United States. A second article recalled the example of Sarajevo, a model of peaceful existence between religious communities.

The fifth issue (November 2020) addressed diversity in the Mediterranean. Its eastern part is a crossroads between Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Strategies are contradictory and the role of the EU is changing.

The sixth issue (March 2021) discussed artistic diversity and intercultural education with an article on Mexico and the great richness of its crafts; a second article addressed intercultural dialogue and education.

The seventh issue (November 2021) illustrates francophone diversity at the heart of the Francophonie with multiple facets, including literary.

The eighth issue (March 2022) is dedicated to Ukraine at war with a reflection on diversity of learning.

The ninth issue (November 2022) addresses diplomatic diversity-war is an admission of failure. ?

The tenth issue (March 2023) is dedicated to the diversity of the Suds - cooperation between the countries of the South and the universal character of the Francophonie.

The eleventh issue (November 2023) is dedicated to media diversity and plurality

The twelfth issue (March 2024) is dedicated to sports diversity with the Olympic Games in Paris in July-August 2024.

The thirteenth issue (November 2024) is dedicated to Olympic diversity with the Paralympic Games in Paris.

The fourteenth issue (March 2025) is dedicated to digital diversity, a major challenge for pluralism, transparency and democracy.

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Diversity in Artificial Intelligence (AI) – close encounters of the 3rd type

The anticipation film «Blade Runner» (1) has mentally prepared us for the Copernican revolution that began at the turn of 2010 with artificial intelligence (AI). It will be increasingly difficult to know whether we are addressing a real human (for example in exchanges on the Internet or even by phone) or a robot that knows how to answer all our questions, sometimes even anticipate them. A new trade could appear, as the hero of Blade Runner in charge of chasing the robots of human appearance, the "replicants". The difference with real humans is that they do not experience emotions, eminently human characteristics. In 2025, artificial intelligence still needs to be helped by human intelligence (HI), for example in online translations.

For Vladimir Atlani (2), economist and founder of the education group Stamp Education, computer code (binary instructions) is outdated. We no longer give direct instructions to machines; we show them examples. Using statistical algorithms, the machine learns from already known and recorded human actions. In each situation, the machine provides an appropriate response. According to the economist, machines can capture ever-sharper details of our practices. They can capture intuition, experience or intellectual sensitivity. Human activity can be replicated and even surpassed by increasingly sophisticated 2.0 replicants. It is neither a bubble nor a fashion. There will be no stop-motion like for metavers. The AI phenomenon is global and penetrates more and more everyday companies and our society in general

A summit for action on artificial intelligence organized by France and India was held in Paris on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th February 2025 (3). The objective was to lay the foundations for multilateral coordination to guide the emergence of a technology that will have a decisive impact on our lives. For Mariana Mazzucato (4), professor of Economics of innovation and public goods valuation at University College London, the question is not whether Europe can compete with China or the United States of America but if the Europeans can pave the way for a different approach, guided by the search for “public value”. It is necessary to fight against a «digital feudalism», concept that she created in 2019 to describe the dominant model of digital platforms based on the extraction of rents.

It is not surprising that US Vice President JD Vance opened his offensive against Europe and European values precisely at the AI Summit in Paris by stating that “the US is the leader in AI and intends to remain so.” He attacked head-on the European regulation described as «censorship», in the same way as that practiced by authoritarian regimes like China. European Commission President Ursula Van der Leyen recalled the enormous work done by the European Union, including the Artificial Intelligence Act (5) inspired by French Commissioner Thierry Breton, which provides a framework for the development of AI through demanding regulations, in particular protecting users from hate content by imposing moderation on platforms. They now refuse in the name of a surprising «freedom of expression» that allows messages falling under the EU law (incitement to racist hatred, anti-Semitic, homophobic, sexist...)

Europeans are open to dialogue, especially with the US leader OpenAI who has warned about a cumbersome European procedure. It is necessary to simplify by reducing “red tape”. But we must be very vigilant and ensure that artificial intelligence remains “open”, “inclusive” and “ethical”. These three concepts refer to a common basis that “maintains a dialogue on the evolutions of technology”, “avoids a concentration of actors who master it” and “works so that it is compatible with climate objectives and human development”. Setting a minimum framework is not incompatible with innovation. It can even help. European legislation on digital markets aims to combat the anti-competitive practices of Internet giants, avoiding digital feudalism that would lead to a vassalization of Europe.

The third way suggested by the Europeans allows not to depend on the US or China. In the field of AI, as in many other strategic sectors, creativity and innovation are key assets. The AI had its «Deepseek moment» when a Chinese artificial intelligence startup showed that it could do as well as the American leader OpenAI with much less resources. The United States had its «Sputnik moment» in the Star Wars they fought with the USSR during the Cold War. They thought they were strong and invincible, proud to be the best and undisputed. They were “challenged”...

A European competition is underway with the French startup Mistral AI (6). OpenAI, which launched the first conversational assistant ChatGPT in 2022, praised its Chinese «challengers» with fair play in January 2025, the American company should show the same elegance with its French counterparts.

In the fight against discrimination and for diversity, in the early 2000s, the European Union led the way with an anti-discrimination pillar unique in the world (7). In terms of artificial intelligence, it has decided to devote resources (financial) and it has the potential (intellectual) to develop an AI in open source (accessible to all), energy-efficient (Green deal), with perfect security and transparency of systems (8).

Killing competition is killing intelligence (9). Diversity and competition in all areas are the strength and DNA of the European Union. Forza Europa !

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